

WAGE FIGHT URGED ON METAL WORKERS

Union President Also Says
That Increased Hours
Are Not Justified.

ASKS A UNITED STAND

Building Material Men Are
Blamed for Excessive Cost
of Construction.

TO OPPOSE OPEN SHOP

Present Unemployment Said
to Be Handicap on Organ-
ized Labor.

DENVER, June 8.—Joint action by all the metal working trades unions in the country to resist further reductions in wages and increases in the hours of labor was urged to-day by James O'Connell, president of the Metal Trades department of the American Federation of Labor, in his annual address to the department's convention.

Building trades workers also were warned that further wage cuts were not justified by William Spencer, secretary of the Building Trades department, in his address before the department's convention. He placed the responsibility for excessive building costs upon the building materials dealers of the country and not on labor.

President O'Connell of the metal trades, asserted that the proposed plan for united action in the metal trades did not involve the "one big union" idea, but its purpose was to secure a closer and more direct co-operation between affiliated organizations. This would also enable the metal trades, he said, to act as a unit in opposing employers' attempts to abolish collective bargaining, the non-union shop and compulsory signing of individual contracts.

Material Prices May Go Up.

The labor official said the contractors "could require agreements from the building materials dealers also if they are sincere in their efforts to reduce building prices and want to be fair with the building public as well as the worker."

While some building materials have temporarily declined in price, Mr. Spencer said there was no guarantee that higher prices would not become immediately effective with the resumption of business.

The secretary's report showed that the membership of the building trades department had increased \$2,815 for the year.

J. C. Bulger, secretary of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, in addressing the convention declared that unscrupulous employers in their efforts to destroy the trades union movement were directing their fight on the building trades, the basic unionized trade in the United States.

Slight wage reductions are necessary in some places, Mr. Bulger said, but this is not true in all communities.

In the convention of the Metal Trade Workers President O'Connell declared that it was unscientific and impossible to base wage reductions accurately on the cost of living, and urged that the metal trades organizations discontinue any effort of trying to base wages on the prevailing cost of living, and devote its

FOOD PRICES FALL IN N. Y. FASTER THAN IN REST OF U. S.

Figures Since 1914 Show City Pays More Relatively
for Clothing, Fuel and Light Than in Other
Average American Communities.

The cost of food in New York city in May was 42.5 per cent. higher than it was in 1914, but 31 per cent. less than it was last December. Tacking the country as a whole the cost of food was 52 per cent. higher last month than in 1914, but 41 per cent. less than it was in December.

However, New York city's clothing is higher in price than it is in the country at large. Last month New York was paying 159.5 per cent. more for raincoat than in 1914, while the country in general paid but 68 per cent. more than it did seven years ago. High as house rent here appears to be, though, the country as a whole is paying 71 per cent. more than it did in 1914 and 5 per cent. more than it did in December, while New York city is paying but 42.5 per cent. more to-day than in 1914 and only 4 per cent. more than in December. You may take what comfort you can out of that.

These figures are taken from the tables issued yesterday by the National Industrial Conference Board and the United States Bureau of Labor through the Publishers' Association of New York city. They show that the combined cost of food, shelter, clothing, fuel, light and sundries that round out the circle of living necessities was 65.7 per cent. greater in May all over the country than in 1914. But here in New

York the cost of food is 81.7 per cent. more than in 1914. However, the cost of living has dropped 24.3 per cent. in the country generally since December, and here in this city the tumble approximated 20 per cent.

The figures issued by the National Industrial Conference Board takes in "average American communities." The Bureau of Labor Statistics issues percentages for New York city. Both show a gradual decline since June, July and August in 1920, which months appear to have seen the peak of high prices. In June, 1920, the cost of living here was 118.2 per cent. above 1914. The same figure obtains for the entire country in July and August of that year.

The bureau's chart has it that food takes up 42 per cent. of the family budget, clothing 16.6 per cent., housing 14.3 per cent., fuel and light 4.3 per cent., furniture 2.3 per cent. and the above mentioned sundries 18.7 per cent.

The figures for the country at large show that fuel and light cost 78 per cent. more last month than in 1914, but 22 per cent. less than in December. The same commodities cost New Yorkers 85.9 per cent. more in May than they did seven years ago and 45.3 per cent. more than last December. In other words, residents of this city are paying less for food than the country as a whole is, more for clothing, relatively less for their housing and more for their fuel and light.

energies toward "deciding what we believe should be our wages and conditions of employment."

Will Fight Open Shop.

Asserting that labor must not submit to the "open shop" or "American plan," the speaker said:

"We have provided our Americanism and our loyalty to our country and its institutions. We have not gowned the Government, nor have we in any way profited. Those employers who have shouted from the housetops of their Americanism have frequently shown up as profiteers of the most rampant character and burglars of public and private treasuries."

More than 50 per cent. of the metal trades unions are unemployed, said Mr. O'Connell, adding that unemployment at this time is a disease, "more dangerous and more degrading than any plague that ever affected the human race."

"It is astonishing," he asserted, "that we have not had during the last year an industrial warfare that would have made the Government officials, the profiteers and the employers lie awake nights and wonder what the outcome might be. That this has not occurred is largely due and creditable to the leaders of the trade union movement."

Secretary A. J. Berres of the department reported that, owing to the troubles of the international unions being depleted, it was impossible to continue to resist wage reductions in the face of the overwhelming numbers out of employment. He urged the convention to make plans at once to raise funds and be ready for a new campaign at the first sign of industrial improvement.

\$6 SCALE ON FORD RAILROAD.

Line to Be Operated on 'Factory Basis,' Says Car Builder.

DETROIT, June 8.—A minimum wage scale of \$6 a day for employees of the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad will become effective July 1, it was announced to-day by Henry Ford, who recently acquired the road.

On the same date, he added, the road will be operated but six days a week, traffic from 6 P. M. Saturday to 6 A. M. Monday being restricted to the minimum required in the movement of milk trains. Mr. Ford said he was endeavoring to put the railroad on a "factory basis," adding that eight hour shifts for employees was contemplated.

CITY REVOKES LEASE SCENTING BIG GRAFT

Continued from First Page.

sets, they began to bargain with Adolf Kahn. The latter was prepared to pay a good price, but, as he intended to rip out all the Kloeblein fixtures and install an entirely new refrigerating plant and other accessories, he was merely buying the location and the good will, he said.

Price of \$8,000 Agreed On.

Finally a price of \$8,000 was agreed upon and a day set when Kahn and Kloeblein should meet in the office of Commissioner O'Malley and arrange for the turning in of Kloeblein's permit and the issuance of a new permit for the six Kloeblein stands in the name of Adolf Kahn.

Kahn and Kloeblein met and with Kahn were two men, one of whom, Kloeblein says, was introduced to him as "Mr. McManus" and the other as "the Alderman." Kloeblein understood the "Mr. McManus" to be Thomas J. McManus, better known as "The" McManus, Tammany leader of the Fifth Assembly District and one of the strongest Murphy nominees in "The Hall." Adolf Kahn's store at 723 Tenth avenue is located in "The" McManus's district.

The quartet—the two butchers, the Tammany leader and "the Alderman"—went together, according to the story Kloeblein has told, to Commissioner O'Malley's office on the twenty-third floor of the Municipal Building. There they were greeted by Thomas F. McGrath, secretary to Commissioner O'Malley. McGrath lives, according to the official directory of city employees, at 421 West Forty-fourth street, which is also in "The" McManus's district.

Leader McManus, Kloeblein recalls, went inside the Commissioner's office first and then Kahn and Kloeblein were introduced to Commissioner O'Malley. The purpose of the visit was gone over and O'Malley remarked to Kloeblein:

Permit Is Not on Sale.

"Of course, you understand, you aren't selling this permit, Mr. Kloeblein? The law forbids that, you know?" Kloeblein hesitated, thinking of his deal for \$8,000 with Kahn, but he felt a quick nudge of an elbow in his ribs from somebody standing beside him and then answered:

"No, I'm selling my plant and fixtures. That's all right, then," replied O'Malley, according to the information now in the hands of the Meyer committee's investigators. Calling over his secretary, McGrath, the Commissioner gave instructions for a new permit covering the six stands held by Kloeblein to be made out to Adolf Kahn.

The quartet of butchers and politi-

cians then left O'Malley's office and rode uptown in Kahn's automobile. "The Alderman" was dropped somewhere on the way uptown and then "The" McManus got out of the car. Kahn and Kloeblein went on to Tenth avenue.

Kahn gave some instructions to his bookkeeper and signed a couple of checks. Then he turned to Kloeblein and said, as Kloeblein has told friends since:

"You want your check? All right. Make out a check for \$8,250 to Mr. Kloeblein," whereupon the bookkeeper got busy with the checkbook again. Information now available to the committee is that Kloeblein insisted his price was \$8,000.

Kahn is said to have replied that he had been put to an expense of \$3,500 in the matter, of which Kloeblein should stand half, or \$1,750.

Some argument ensued, but Kloeblein finally accepted the check for \$6,250, closing the transaction.

New Fixtures Installed.

Within a few days Kahn began tearing out the Kloeblein fixtures and putting in his own, which were shipped out from Philadelphia by a refrigerating and meat equipment plant there. The work of altering the Kloeblein place had progressed so far that Kahn undertook the task of closing up his Tenth avenue place. Yesterday that plant was almost empty and a "for sale" sign appeared on the upper part of the building.

But along came the Joint Legislative Committee and from some source unknown there drifted in information concerning the Kahn-Kloeblein transaction. Leonard Wallstein took personal charge of the matter and put trusted investigators to work on it. As a preliminary the books of Adolf Kahn were subpoenaed and taken to Mr. Wallstein's office, where they now are.

An examination of these books showed that several erasures had been made in the books, with ink eraserators, in items concerning the Kloeblein purchase. Handwriting experts were called in and expert bookkeepers put to work. The latter decided that there had been erasures in the books dealing with three separate sums, \$3,000, \$500 and \$6,250. Then there were some new entries of \$6,250 and \$1,750. The erasures and alterations were such as to make the whole transaction seem very curious.

The handwriting experts offered a solution. The erasures, they said, had been done with an ink eraserator and new entries made after that. By the use of an "ink revolver" the work of the ink eraserator was wiped out and parts of the old entries made to appear.

Through the ink revolver, it was admitted last night, an entry on the Kahn books appeared which indicated that the name "McManus" had been written on the Kahn books and then erased.

Kahn was sent for and asked to explain. He maintained stoutly that he had deducted \$1,750 from the \$8,000 which he had agreed to pay Kloeblein because of the "alterations" which he had made in Kloeblein's stands. He denied having paid any money to any-

body for getting him the market permit. Commissioner O'Malley was asked what he knew of the transaction. He replied that he knew nothing more than that he had issued a new permit to Kahn in the regular way. He recalled meeting Leader McManus, but did not connect him in any way with the transaction.

Kloeblein was next sought. He was found to have retired permanently to his home at 1024 Park avenue, Hoboken, which, being in New Jersey, is out of the committee's jurisdiction. But he said he would consult counsel. His lawyer, Judge A. C. Carsten of Hoboken, advised him not to put himself in the Meyer committee's jurisdiction.

Kloeblein Won't Testify.

A written stipulation guaranteeing Kloeblein immunity from all persecution for any part in the Kahn transaction was sent to Kloeblein, but by advice of his counsel he still refuses to come here to testify.

When THE NEW YORK HERALD reporter saw Kloeblein last Monday the facts as related here were laid before him. He listened carefully and replied: "You've got the whole story right enough, but I won't go over there to testify. Why should I buck up against Tammany Hall when my lawyer advises me not? I didn't do anything wrong, but I'm not going to run my head into trouble. Kahn has the place now, and I suppose they'll have to revoke his permit if this story gets out. I feel sorry for him even if he didn't pay me everything. Why shouldn't I say he made a deduction for alterations? I could say that if I wanted to, but I'm not going to say anything."

Judge Carsten when interviewed said that he had advised Kloeblein not to help the Meyer committee, even though an immunity pledge was given. "How do we know they'll stick by that pledge?" he said. "Anyway, why should we help them get Tammany Hall into trouble?"

Commissioner of Accounts Hirschfeld has been inquiring into the Kahn-Kloeblein affair ever since it became known Mr. Wallstein was busy about it. When he found the Kahn books were in Mr. Wallstein's office Hirschfeld dropped the investigation.

Yesterday a reporter for THE NEW YORK HERALD sought Kahn at his Tenth avenue store and at West Washington Market, but in vain. Alderman Charles E. McManus has been asked by Mr. Wallstein when he can produce his brother, "The" McManus, so that some questions can be asked of him by the Meyer committee. But Leader McManus still remains unfindable.

And now the Kahn permit is revoked without explanation and Kahn is minus all he paid out to get the Kloeblein stands and permit.

AUSTRALIA TO STUDY U. S. RAILS.

MELBOURNE, June 8.—Victoria and New South Wales, it was announced, are each sending a delegation of four railway officials to the United States. The Australians will study the American railway systems and their operation.

PULLMAN STRIKE VOTE

HALTS ON A. F. L. ORDER

Conferences for Truce to Be Held—U. S. Conciliator on Duty.

CHICAGO, June 8.—The strike ballot among the shop forces of the Pullman company in more than eighty cities, which was to have been voted and returned Friday, was recalled to-day after a conference of Pullman employees' representatives with the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor.

The recall is only temporary, according to Harry Smith, chairman of the Pullman System Federation, and awaits the next move by the Pullman company. C. J. Furry of the Department of Labor was detailed to Chicago to-day for conferences aiming at conciliation.

The vote of the men, numbering about 12,000, was in favor of calling a strike, replies in the hands of union headquarters indicated, Mr. Smith said. The point at issue, as defined by the union, was the alleged refusal of the Pullman company to treat with its employees as to wages and working conditions as directed by the Railroad Labor Board.

CELESTINS

(FRENCH REPUBLIC PROPERTY)

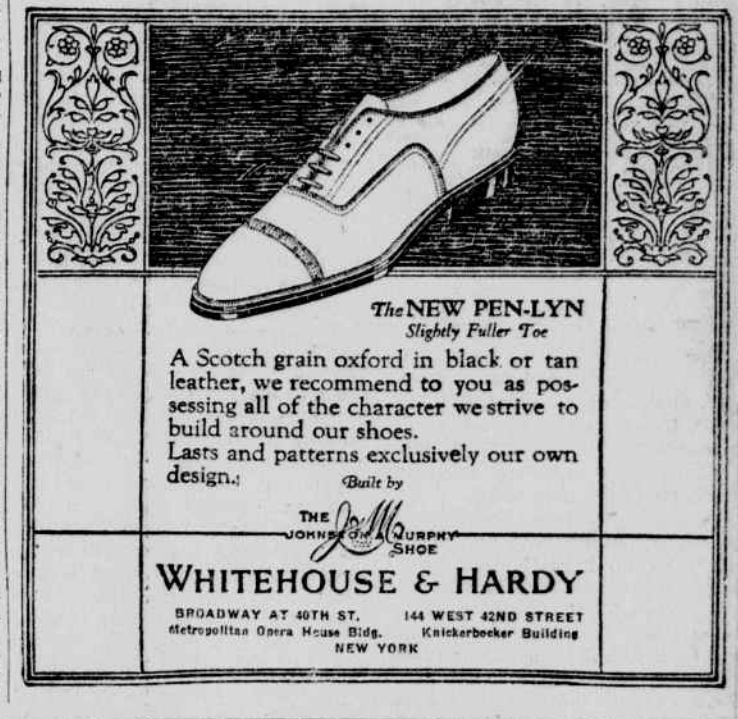
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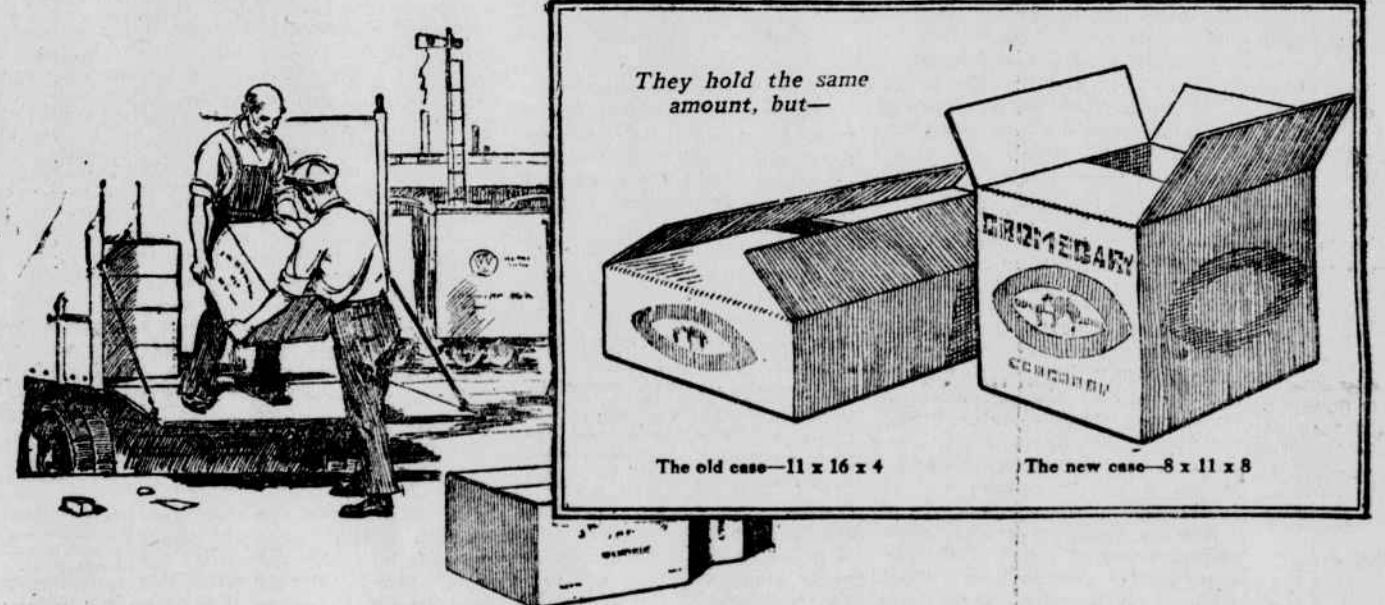


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RUINED shipments—constant damage claims—and yet the manufacturer was paying a price for his shipping cases which should have insured full protection.

Examination of his shipping cases showed that they were long and flat—11x16x4. Gair experts calculated that doubling the depth and decreasing the length and width—so as to make a case 8x11x8—would give them the same carrying capacity with greatly increased strength.

To-day Gair cases of this approximately cubical type have replaced the old flat cases. They checked transit losses at once. Besides being stronger, they are easier to pack and easier to handle. The manufacturer's message printed on the outside has more display space and far greater advertising value. And the fact that they require exactly 30% less stock means an important saving on every order.

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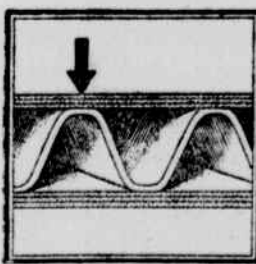
adapted to the individual product. Our intimate first-hand knowledge of modern transit conditions and shipping regulations often points the way to important savings by utilizing more economical packing methods. We can decide without prejudice whether corrugated or solid fibre cases are best—for we manufacture both.

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We control the whole process of manufacture, from careful selection of the raw stock to printing the finished product. The same plant which turns the pulp into box-board also produces the case complete, thus eliminating costly transshipments and delays in manufacture.

With mills located at six strategic points—each mill specializing on some particular problem—Gair service covers all the essentials of package merchandising: Folding boxes, Labels, Shipping cases, Display advertising. We also supply boxboard in any quantity. The Gair system is the largest of its kind in the world.

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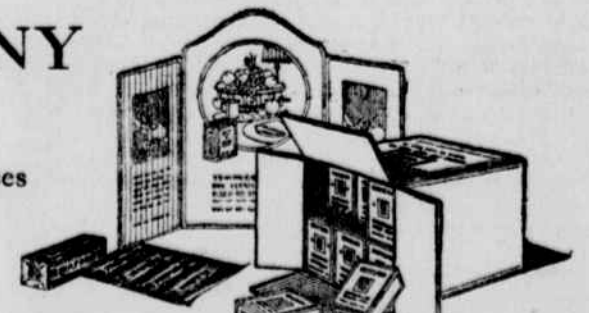
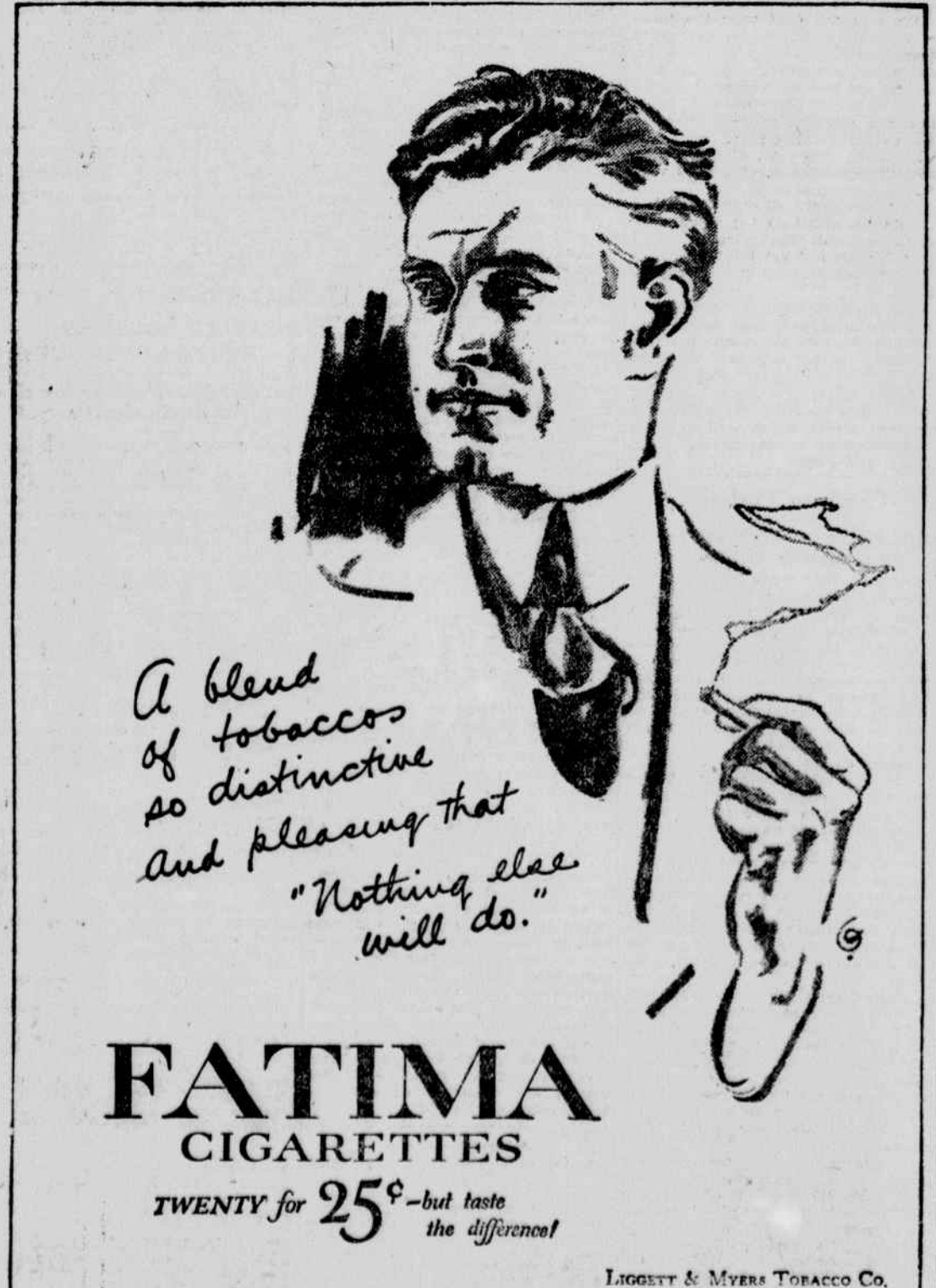
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